

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A retroviral RNA molecule, in an isolated or purified state, that is obtainable from tissue, comprising ~~a~~the nucleotide sequence which, in the form of DNA, is ~~selected from the group consisting of set forth in SEQ ID NO:11 and sequences that exhibit for every sequence of 100 contiguous monomers at least 70% homology with SEQ ID NO: 11.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A retroviral RNA molecule, in an isolated or purified state, that is obtainable from tissue, comprising a nucleotide ~~sequence,~~sequence encoding any polypeptide ~~exhibiting, for every contiguous sequence of at least 30 amino acids, at least 80% identity with a peptide sequence encoded by at least a functional part of SEQ ID NO:11.~~

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 2, wherein the functional part of SEQ ID NO:11 encodes at least one retroviral protein.

6. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 5, comprising at least one regulatory nucleotide sequence.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~An~~amplification primer for ~~amplification of the molecule according to claim 1~~ amplifying the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:11 or a fragment thereof, comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:11 ~~of the molecule according to claim 1~~ or with any specific amplification product thereof, wherein the primer is 10 to 30 nucleotides in length.

11-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition comprising the molecule according to claim 1.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing an autoimmune disease, a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a pathological pregnancy, or an unsuccessful pregnancy, the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting the biological sample with a molecular marker comprising the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting the molecular marker.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing susceptibility to an autoimmune disease or a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a risk of a pathological pregnancy, or a risk of an unsuccessful pregnancy, the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting the biological sample with an RNA marker comprising the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting the RNA marker.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a gene associated with susceptibility to an autoimmune disease or a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a risk of a pathological pregnancy, or a risk of an unsuccessful pregnancy, the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting the biological sample with an RNA marker comprising the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting the RNA marker.

24–29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn) The molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:7, 8 and 9.

31–35. (Canceled)

36. (Withdrawn) The molecule according to claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:7, 8 and 9.

37–38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) A probe for detection of the molecule according to claim 1, wherein the probe is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:16 to 28.

40. (New) The primer according to claim 10, wherein said primer consists of a sequence selected from the group consisting of the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:16 to 28.